



COTTON CULTIVATION IN ITALIAN SOMALILAND

By Cecil M. P. Gross, American Consul,

Aden, Arabia, January 3, 1922.

FEB 3 1922

An experiment in cotton cultivation of considerable extent is being made in Italian Somaliland under the personal supervision of the Duca degli Abruzzi. The valley of the Tug Derror has been selected for the attempt and several thousand acres have already been prepared for cultivation. The degree of the success of the experiment cannot be known definitely until after the maturation of the crop in the late summer, but great hopes are entertained.

Egyptian cotton is being used because of its quality, and because the climatic conditions, soil and degree of moisture prevailing in the Tug Derror valley are more similar to those of the Nile valley than to those of the other cotton producing areas.

If the attempt proves successful it is believed that the Tug Derror river will supply sufficient water to irrigate an area extensive enough to make Italy virtually independent of other sources of supply. An inexperienced labor supply, and heavy initial expenses incident to preparing the land for the crop seem to be the main obstacles.

The possibility of growing sugar cane in the same region is also under serious consideration, but actual work along this line is awaiting the results achieved in the cotton experiment.

Cecil M. P. Gross

American Consul.

YOKOHAMA
OCT 1922
Aden, Arabia,
January 3, 1922.

Central File: Decimal File 865B.61321, Internal Affairs Of States, Agriculture., Field Crops. Seeds., Fibers., Somaliland, Cotton., January 3, 1922. 3 Jan. 1922. MS European Colonialism in the Early 20th Century. National Archives (United States). Archives Unbound, link.gale.com%2Fapps%2Fdoc%2FSC5109729419%2FGDSC%3Fu%3Domni%26sid%3Dbookmark-GDSC. Accessed 18 June 2025.